

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a  
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the  
3 textured surface of the hub having a surface roughness exceeding a flying height of  
4 the tape.

1           2.     The tape guide of Claim 1, wherein the surface roughness exceeds 1.0  
2 microns.

1           3.     The tape guide of Claim 1, wherein the surface roughness is between  
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1           4.     A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a  
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the  
3 surface texture comprising a circumferential texture that includes a series of  
4 scratches similar to that achieved by placing sand paper against a turning tape  
5 guide with no lateral motion.

1           5.     The tape guide of Claim 4, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a  
2 flying height of the tape.

1           6.     The tape guide of Claim 4, wherein the surface roughness is between  
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1           7.     A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a  
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the  
3 surface texture comprising a cross hatched texture that includes an array of  
4 crossing scratches similar to that achieved by moving sand paper laterally back and  
5 forth against a slowly turning tape guide.

1           8.     The tape guide of Claim 7, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a  
2 flying height of the tape.

1           9.     The tape guide of Claim 7, wherein the surface roughness is between  
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1           10.    A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a  
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the  
3 surface texture comprising a sputter texture that includes an array of small bumps  
4 similar to that achieved by sputter depositing a texture material on to the surface of  
5 the hub.

1           11.    The tape guide of Claim 10, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a  
2 flying height of the tape.

1           12.    The tape guide of Claim 10, wherein the surface roughness is between  
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1           13.    A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a  
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the  
3 surface texture comprising a laser texture that includes an array of surface  
4 irregularities produced by melting and recrystallizing tiny areas on the surface of the  
5 hub surface similar to that achieved with techniques used to produce laser textured  
6 recording disks.

1           14.    The tape guide of Claim 13, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a  
2 flying height of the tape.

1           15.    The tape guide of Claim 13, wherein the surface roughness is between  
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1           16.    A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a  
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the

3 surface texture comprising a machined texture that includes a series of ridges on  
4 the surface of the hub similar to a knurled surface.

1 17. The tape guide of Claim 16, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a  
2 flying height of the tape.

1 18. The tape guide of Claim 16, wherein the surface roughness is between  
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.